

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 2989

As of February 18, 2010

Title: An act relating to respiratory care practitioners.

Brief Description: Concerning respiratory care practitioners.

Sponsors: Representatives Moeller and Cody.

Brief History: Passed House: 2/16/10, 98-0.

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 2/22/10.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Staff: Edith Rice (786-7444)

Background: A respiratory care practitioner (RCP) works with patients who have deficiencies and abnormalities affecting the cardiopulmonary system and associated systems. A RCP must be licensed and registered in order to practice, unless exempt, and must be under the order and qualified medical direction of a physician.

The practice of respiratory care covers an array of procedures, including: (1) the administration of prescribed medical gases; (2) postural drainage, chest percussion, and vibration; and (3) the insertion of devices to draw, analyze, infuse, or monitor pressure in blood as prescribed by a physician or an advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP).

Summary of Bill: The types of practitioners under whose order and direction a RCP may practice are expanded to health care practitioners instead of physicians. Health care practitioner is defined to include physicians, osteopathic physicians, physician assistants, osteopathic physician assistants, and ARNPs.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

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